

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed February 26, 2004, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-6, 9, 11, 13, 15-26, and 29. The Examiner objected to Claims 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 27, and 28 but deemed those claims to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this response, Claims 7, 9, 11, 15-23, and 27 have been cancelled leaving Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-14, 24-26, 28 and 29 pending. Claims 1, 10, 12-14, and 24 have been amended to place the pending claims in condition for allowance.

With respect to the claims deemed allowable, Claim 7 has been cancelled. However, Claim 7 depended from Claim 1, and Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation formerly found in Claim 7. Claim 8 depends from Claim 1 and has not been amended. Claim 10, which previously depended from Claim 9 which depended from Claim 1 has been amended so that it is in independent form and includes all the limitations of Claims 1 and 9.

Claim 12 previously depended from Claim 11 which depended from Claim 9 which depended from Claim 1. Claim 12 has been amended so that it is independent form and includes all the limitations of Claims 1, 9, and 11. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from Claim 12, and Claim 14 has been amended to depend from Claim 13.

Claim 27 has been cancelled. However, Claim 27 depended from Claim 24, and Claim 24 has been amended to include the limitation formerly found in Claim 27. Claim 28 depends from Claim 24 and has not been amended.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 102: The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 11, 13, and 15-26 as being anticipated by USPN 4,525,116 Issued to Holmberg. Claim 1 has been amended to include a limitation found in Claim 7 (now cancelled) which depended from Claim 1. The Examiner admitted that Claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To that end the limitation from Claim 7 was added to Claim 1 placing Claim 1 in condition for allowance. Claims 4-6 each depend from Claim 1 and include all the limitations of that base claims. For the same reasons Claim 1 is patentable, so are Claims 4-6.

Claims 9 and 11 have been cancelled. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from Claim 12. For the reasons (discussed below) that Claim 12 is patentable, so is Claim 13.

Claims 15-23 have been cancelled.

Claim 24 has been amended to include a limitation found in Claim 27 (now cancelled) which depended from Claim 24. The Examiner admitted that Claim 27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To that end the limitation from Claim 27 was added to Claim 24 placing Claim 24 in condition for allowance. Claims 25-26 depend from Claim 24 and include all the limitations of that base claim. For the same reasons Claim 24 is patentable, so are Claims 25 and 26.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 USC § 103: The Examiner rejected Claims 2, 3, and 29 under section 103. Claims 2 and 3 depend from Claim 1 and include all the limitations of that base claims. Claim 29 depends from Claim 24 and includes all the limitations of that base claim. For the same reasons Claims 1 and 24 are patentable, so are Claim 2, 3, and 29.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER: The Examiner objected to Claims 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 27, and 28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but noted that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The limitation of Claim 7(now cancelled) has been incorporated into Claim 1. Claim 8 depends from Claim 1.

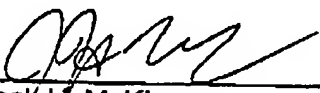
Claims 10 and 12 have each been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations their base claim and all intervening claims. Claim 14 has been amended to depend from Claim 12. The limitation of Claim 27(now cancelled) has been incorporated into Claim 24. Claim 28 depends from Claim 24 placing Claim 28 in condition for allowance. These amendments place Claims 1, 8, 10, 12, 14, 24, and 28 in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION: The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 12-14, 24-26, 28 and 29 are felt to be in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing the application to issue is earnestly solicited. The foregoing is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

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